

A N N U A L R E P O R T

on the

H E A L T H

of the

C O U N T Y B O R O U G H O F W I G A N .

for the Year

1 9 4 4 .

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HENRY WHITEHEAD, M.D., D.P.H.(Vict), M.B., B.S. (Lond).

Medical Officer of Health, Chief Tuberculosis Officer,
Superintendent School Medical Officer,
Medical Superintendent of Corporation Hospitals, &c.

Public Health Department,
Municipal Buildings,
Library Street,
W I G A N.
August, 1945.

To the Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors
of the Wigan County Borough Council.

Sir, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present you with my Annual Report on the health of the Borough, and on the work of the Health Department during the year 1944.

The Birth Rate is 18.74 against 18.32 during 1943.

The General Death Rate of 12.92 is less than last year's rate of 14.30. The Death Rate for the 126 Great Towns during 1944 was 13.70.

The Infant Mortality is 67 against 71 during the previous year.

3.5 The Maternal Mortality is 2.04, which is well below the average of ~~4.43~~ during the past five years, and is the lowest figure ever recorded in the Borough.

The Death Rate from Tuberculosis, both pulmonary and non-pulmonary is 0.65 per thousand of the population. This is less than the figure of 0.81 during the previous year, and the lowest rate on record in Wigan.

The Municipal Midwifery service continues to work very satisfactorily. The average number of cases attended by each midwife is 73, against 71 during the previous year. They are expected to deal with approximately 66 cases per year.

Diphtheria was less prevalent than last year. 61 cases were notified, compared with 113 during 1943. Many efforts have been made to encourage parents to consent to the inoculation of their children, and this has resulted in a very considerable increase in the number of children immunised. There are still many parents whose only excuse for refusal is that 'they don't believe in it'. During 1944 927 children were inoculated, and the grand total of children immunised since the commencement of the scheme in 1939 is now 11,087.

The two War-time Nurseries, one situated in Beech Hill and the other in Pemberton are continuing to operate very satisfactorily in accommodating children between the ages of six months and five years, whose mothers are engaged on war work. It is pleasing to note that the general standard of the children accommodated has improved in every way.

Under the Scabies Order of 1941, arrangements were made to treat this verminous condition at Whelley Infectious Diseases Hospital. During 1944 506 persons made 893 attendances for treatment. (See page 13).

It is again my privilege to record my thanks to all members of my staff in the Health Department and in the Hospitals, for their continued loyalty and excellent service. Again, in addition to their usual duties they have carried out a great amount of extra work in connection with the Emergency Casualty Service.

My thanks are also due to the Chairman of the Health Committee, Alderman T. Ramsden, and the Chairman of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee, Alderman Mrs. Ashurst, for their continued co-operation, confidence and support. I also thank the members of the Committees under whom I serve, for their courtesy and consideration.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient servant,

HENRY WHITEHEAD.

BIRTHS. The number registered during 1944 is 1,471. The rate per 1,000 of the population is 18.74. This shows an increase on the rate of 18.32 for 1943. The illegitimate births number 58, being 3.94% of the live births.

STILL-BIRTHS. Numbers registered during 1944 :-

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate.	23.	16.	39.
Illegitimate.	3.	-	3.
Totals.	26.	16.	42.

MORTALITY RATE. Deaths during 1944 number 1,014 (males 535 and females 479), being an excess of 56 males over females. The recorded rate per 1,000 of the population is 12.92. In 1943 it was 14.30. The decrease in the number of deaths as compared with 1943 was 99, equivalent to a rate of 1.26 per 1,000 of the population.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

BIRTHS.		Total.	Male.	Female.	}	Birth Rate per 1,000 of population :-
		1,413.	767.	646.		
	Legitimate	1,413.	767.	646.		
	Illegitimate	58.	25.	33.		
		1,471.	792.	679.		18.74
DEATHS.		1,014.	535.	479.		Death Rate per 1,000 of population :- 12.92

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of child-birth :- Sepsis 2.
Other causes 1.

Mortality of women in, or associated with child-birth (rate per 1,000
live and still-births).

Puerperal Sepsis	1.36
Other puerperal causes	.68
Total puerperal mortality	2.04
Non-puerperal causes	-
Total Internal Mortality	2.04

INFANT MORTALITY. (Death Rate per 1,000 births of those under one year of age).

Total births	1,471.	Total deaths.	99.	Infant Mortality	67.
Legitimate	1,413.	Deaths under one year	91.	"	64.
Illegitimate	58.	" " " "	8.	"	138.

Of this total of 99, 15 died under one day, 20 under one week, and 18 under one month.

The three main causes of death were :- Premature Birth 20,
Congenital Malformations 16, and Pneumonia 20.

INQUESTS AND UNCERTIFIED DEATHS.

72 inquests were held in Wigan during 1944, as against 53 in 1943 and 69 in 1942. The following verdicts were recorded :-

Natural Causes. 2.

Accidents. Burns 1, Scald 1, Colliery 7, Falls 4, Drownings 2,
Railways 2, Knocked down and run over 14, Street 5,
Falls downstairs 4, Others 14.

Other Causes. 11.

Murder. nil.

Suicides. Gas 1, Hanging 3, Cut throat 1.

One uncertified death was registered during 1944, as against none in 1943 and one in 1942.

The ZYMOTIC RATE totals 0.19, and is made up as follows :-

Diphtheria	- deaths 2, rate .02	Diarrhoea	- deaths 9, rate .12
Whooping Cough	- " 3, " .04	Scarlet Fever	- " 1, " .01

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS SINCE THE YEAR 1876.

Year.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Zymotic Death Rate.	Infant Mortality.
1876.	48.90	28.50	4.92	186.
1886.	38.70	22.10	3.10	174.
1896.	35.90	23.09	4.09	186.
1906.	32.60	17.61	2.61	160.
1916.	23.28	15.42	1.04	113.
1926.	20.03	13.13	.30	103.
1936.	17.23	12.78	.42	82.
1944.	18.74	12.92	.19	67.

REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S SHORT LIST OF CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1944,

Causes.	Sex	All ages	0+	1+	5+	15+	45+	65+
Totals from all causes.	M	535	60	14	9	51	161	240
	F	479	39	14	9	69	130	218
1. Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fevers.	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2. Cerebro-Spinal Fever.	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3. Scarlet Fever.	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
4. Whooping Cough.	M	2	1	1	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
5. Diphtheria.	M	2	1	1	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6. Tuberculosis (of respiratory system).	M	16	-	-	-	9	5	2
	F	25	-	-	1	20	4	-
7. Tuberculosis (other forms).	M	3	-	1	1	1	-	-
	F	7	-	-	2	4	1	-
8. Syphilitic Disease.	M	8	-	-	-	1	5	2
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	3
9. Influenza.	M	11	-	-	-	-	5	6
	F	8	-	-	-	2	3	3
10. Measles.	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11. Acute Poliomyelitis & Polioencephalitis.	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12. Acute Infectious Encephalitis.	M	2	-	-	-	1	1	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	1	1
13. Cancer of Buccal Cavity & Oesophagus	M	9	-	-	-	-	2	7
13. Cancer of Uterus.	F	7	-	-	-	1	5	1
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum.	M	10	-	-	-	-	7	3
	F	11	-	-	-	-	5	6
15. Cancer of Breast.	F	14	-	-	-	1	6	7
16. Cancer of all other sites.	M	46	-	-	-	4	17	25
	F	32	-	-	-	3	12	17
17. Diabetes.	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	3
	F	11	-	-	-	2	3	6
18. Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions.	M	58	-	-	-	2	19	37
	F	50	-	-	-	-	20	30
19. Heart Disease.	M	92	-	-	1	5	34	52
	F	105	-	-	-	13	28	64
20. Other Circulatory Diseases.	M	15	-	-	-	-	4	11
	F	4	-	-	-	-	1	3
21. Bronchitis.	M	63	2	1	-	6	22	32
	F	34	2	1	-	4	11	16
22. Pneumonia.	M	24	9	5	-	-	6	4
	F	25	11	6	-	-	5	3
23. Other Respiratory Diseases.	M	5	-	-	-	1	3	1
	F	9	-	1	-	1	5	2
24. Ulceration of Stomach and Duodenum.	M	6	-	-	-	3	3	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25. Diarrhoea (under two years).	M	6	6	-	-	-	-	-
	F	3	3	-	-	-	-	-
26. Appendicitis.	M	2	-	-	-	-	2	-
	F	3	-	1	-	-	1	1
27. Other Digestive Diseases.	M	10	1	1	1	-	1	6
	F	14	-	1	-	1	4	8
28. Nephritis.	M	4	-	-	-	-	2	2
	F	6	-	-	-	1	3	2
29. Puerperal and Post-Abortive Sepsis.	F	2	-	-	-	2	-	-
30. Other Maternal Causes.	F	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
31. Premature Birth.	M	13	13	-	-	-	-	-
	F	7	7	-	-	-	-	-
32. Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury, Infantile Diseases.	M	22	21	-	1	-	-	-
	F	13	11	-	2	-	-	-
33. Suicide.	M	4	-	-	-	-	3	1
	F	2	-	-	-	1	1	-
34. Road Traffic Accidents.	M	13	-	1	2	3	4	3
	F	6	-	3	-	2	1	-
35. Other Violent Causes.	M	21	3	2	2	7	4	3
	F	14	2	-	1	-	1	10
36. All Other Causes.	M	65	3	1	1	8	12	40
	F	59	3	-	2	10	9	35

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

A constant water supply for domestic purposes is obtained from four different sources. All supplies are chlorinated prior to distribution. Samples from each source taken monthly for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis have consistently been reported as satisfactory. The samples are usually obtained from service taps in dwellings situated in many parts of the town.

100% of the houses are supplied direct from water mains. The water is not liable to plumbo-solvent action.

Four samples of raw water were taken for bacteriological examination. In two there were no B. Coli in 100 c.c. In the other two samples 1,800 and 600 B. Coli were present in 100 c.c., but examination after filtration and chlorination showed no B. Coli were found in 100 c.c.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The River Douglas and streams running into it are the natural means of draining the Borough. The Douglas Catchment Board controls the river. They have carried out many improvements, cleansed the bed of the river when required, and deal with rat infestation.

DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE, SCAVENGING AND REFUSE DISPOSAL.

Practically the whole of the Borough is sewered and drained. House refuse is collected and disposed of by means of destructors and tipping. The streets are scavenged regularly.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Almost the whole of the closet accommodation is on the water carriage system. The number of water closets on 31st. March 1945 was 26,673. In addition, there are 102 waste water closets, 51 pail closets and 39 privy middens. The pail closets and privy middens are in connection with un-fit houses or isolated farms with cottages adjoining. During the year one waste water closet was converted to a closet with efficient flushing apparatus.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Mr. F. Martlew, Chief Sanitary Inspector, submits the following remarks. The town is divided into five districts. A District Sanitary Inspector is responsible to the Chief Sanitary Inspector for the constant supervision of each district. In addition, Inspectors specialise in the control of factories, workshops, bake-houses, shops and offices.

Houses and premises inspected and visited re nuisances and complaints	2902.
Re-visits to nuisances	8207.
Other visits made	1412.
Visits to premises (testing of drains)	210.
Nuisances discovered	4457.
Nuisances abated	4516.
Notices issued (preliminary)	1278.
" " (formal)	523.
Letters issued re nuisances	746.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

34 observations were made during the year. On account of the poor quality of fuel available and inexperienced labourers acting as stokers, it is almost impossible to prevent smoke nuisances occurring.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES AND HOUSES LET-IN-LODGINGS.

These premises are visited regularly and were found to be kept in a satisfactory condition. 562 visits were made to the six common lodging houses in the Borough, having accommodation for 279 lodgers. 105 visits were made to the three houses let-in-lodgings.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Offensive trades are carried on at seven premises. They consist of one fellmonger, one fat boiler, three gut scrapers, one gut scraper and fat boiler, and one tripe boiler. Eight visits were made to these premises.

RAG FLOCK ACT.

Three samples of rag flock obtained from manufacturers of bedding and furniture were submitted to the Borough Analyst, and all conformed to the Rag Flock Regulations.

CANAL BOATS, (Public Health Act, 1936).

As far as can be ascertained the 29 Canal Boats registered in Wigan are still in use. Seventeen inspections were made during the year. Two contraventions were discovered and remedied.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

There are 398 factories in the Borough, 239 of these have mechanical power, and 138 visits were made. 46 contraventions of the Act were discovered during the year, they were as follows. Lack of cleanliness 31, defective sanitary accommodation 10, unsuitable exits or escapes in case of fire 1, overcrowding 1, other defects 3. All the foregoing contraventions under the Act were remedied informally, with the exception of four contraventions outstanding.

SHOPS ACTS, 1912 - 1936.

The number of shops registered is 1980. 349 observations were made. The contraventions discovered were as follows. Defective sanitary accommodation 3, insufficient facilities for maintaining reasonable temperature 2, unclean condition of premises 45, accumulation of refuse 7, defective drainage 8, rat infested 5, other defects 20. 19 letters were addressed to occupiers.

PHARMACY AND POISONS ACT, 1933.

56 premises are registered for the sale of poisons (part 2). During the year 167 visits were made to premises, and 15 letters concerning contraventions were addressed to occupiers.

PLACES OF ENTERTAINMENT.

There are 24 places of entertainment within the Borough, each one is inspected periodically, and reports are made on their sanitary condition before renewal of licence.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

In accordance with the Ministry of Food instructions an extensive campaign was carried out during the year to reduce the rat infestation in the public sewers. 1110 manhole benches were 'baited', two treatments being applied to each manhole. Of the total points treated during the first treatment 310 poison baits were taken, the estimated 'kill' being 3,795 rats. The second treatment showed 175 poison baits taken, giving an estimated total of 4,957 rats killed. Thus the approximate 'kill' for the whole campaign is 5,752 rats.

During the year 160 premises were reported to be infested with rats, 96 such premises have been cleared and 64 are still under observation. 44 premises were reported to be infested with mice, 24 have been cleared and 20 are still under observation. Poison biscuits are issued to occupiers of buildings with minor infestations of rats or mice.

HOUSING.

The number of dwellings at the 1931 census was 18,573, the number of families was 20,190, that is 1,617 more families than dwellings. The population at the 1931 census 85,357.

Since 1st. January 1921 a total of 5,164 houses have been erected, 2,594 by private enterprise and 2,570 by this local authority. During the period 1931 - 1942 approximately 1,570 dwellings have been demolished or ceased to be used for habitation.

During this year 2,831 dwelling houses were inspected for defects under the Public Health or Housing Acts. 2,565 of these were recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925. A total of 10,867 inspections and re-inspections were made, one of these houses was unfit for habitation, 2,301 were not reasonably fit for habitation, 1,557 were rendered fit in consequence of informal action, and 550 were rendered fit after the service of formal notices.

OVERCROWDING.

Many evacuees and others have come into the town since hostilities commenced, with the result that at the time of writing this report practically every available dwelling is occupied, and many houses are occupied by more than one family. A survey of the 18,922 artisan dwellings within the Borough was carried out during the year. 1,098 houses were found to be overcrowded according to the standard set out in the Housing Act 1935. 17,137 of the above houses were each occupied by one family, 1,675 by two families, 102 by three families, five by four families, and three by five or more families. The total number of families was 20,832, or 1,910 in excess of the number of houses. Twelve dwellings which have been dealt with under the Housing Acts but had not been demolished were licenced for re-occupation for periods of six months, and were occupied on 1st. January 1945.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY (Food & Drugs Act 1938).

The number of persons registered under the above enactments are as follows.

DAIRYMEN. Premises within the Borough 137, premises outside the Borough 26, total 163. Wholesale dealers 8, producers 25.

Approximately 300 milch cows are kept within the Borough, and the cowsheds are kept in a satisfactory condition. Number of visits made to cowsheds 194, to dairies 263, and milkshops 153.

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

No. of licences issued for the sale of pasteurised milk	101.
" " " " and production of pasteurised milk	5.
" " " " accredited milk	6.
" persons licenced for the sale and production of accredited milk	3.
" licences issued for the sale of tuberculin tested milk	2.

During the year 69 samples of milk were taken for the purpose of testing the amount of foreign matter contained in the milk intended for sale within the Borough. These samples were obtained at dairies and farms.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK.

165 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination and/or Methylene Blue Reduction Test and Phosphatase Test. Of these samples, six were raw milks from individual farmers, 65 were bulked raw milk; 70 pasteurised milk, 15 accredited milk, and 9 sterilised milk. Of the pasteurised milk, one sample did not satisfy the Methylene Blue Reduction Test, and two samples failed to pass the Phosphatase Test. Six of the samples of accredited milk were not satisfactory. Four of these unsatisfactory samples were from a producer who has now ceased to produce accredited milk. Five milk bottles which had been taken after cleansing and sterilisation, from different dairies, were submitted for bacteriological examination.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector and five District Inspectors are all qualified Meat Inspectors. Within the Borough there are twelve licenced slaughter-houses. District Inspectors examine carcasses slaughtered within their own districts. Owing to the Food Control only six of the above premises are being used for slaughtering.

Premises which come within the Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924 are frequently visited. A large proportion of condemned meat is sent to a fat melter for manufacturing purposes, the remainder is dealt with at the Frog Lane Cleansing Depot.

The firm receiving this condemned meat has signed an undertaking that it will be used for manufacturing purposes only, and they regularly return schedules of quantities received. Shops, stores and vehicles are constantly inspected.

Registration of Purveyors of Meat and Premises.

The Wigan Corporation Act, 1933, section 36, contains powers for the compulsory registration of purveyors of meat and premises which are used or proposed to be used for the sale of meat. The number of premises registered at the end of 1944 was 98.

Private Slaughter Houses in use in the area.

	on 31-12-1920.	on 31-12-1944.
Registered.	24.	-
Licenced.	1.	12.
	25.	12.

Number of visits to slaughter-houses.	2,182.
" " markets.	403.
" " butchers and other food shops.	1,869.
" certificates issued (condemned food)	495.

Carcases examined during the year 1944.

	Beasts.	Calves.	Pigs.	Sheep.	Total.
Carcases examined.	6,507.	2,847.	5,202.	11,961.	26,517.
Carcases totally condemned.	232.	20.	15.	5.	272.
Percentage totally condemned.	3.56	.72	.28	.04	1.02

The following meat and offal from slaughter-houses was surrendered and destroyed, or sold for manufacturing purposes, during the year 1944.

Affected with Tuberculosis.	Whole carcass and all offal condemned.	Part of carcass condemned.	Offal condemned.									
			Heads.	Lungs.	Livers.	Hearts.	Stomachs.	Spleens.	Kidneys.	Udders.	Mesenteries.	Skirts.
Beasts.	209.	95.	644	2406	355	29	224	36	83	14	933	318
Calves.	13.	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pigs.	14.	43.	344	282	242	172	107	64	14	-	66	-
Sheep.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Affected with other diseases.												
Beasts.	23.	-	3	240	1691	12	2	-	56	294	-	-
Calves.	7.	-	-	6	9	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pigs.	1.	-	-	210	44	19	-	-	10	-	-	-
Sheep.	5.	-	1	24	225	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	272.	138.	992	3169	2566	235	333	100	163	308	999	318

Included under the above were 35 carcasses dealt with under the Tuberculosis order.

OTHER FOOD.

A large wholesale business in fish and other foodstuffs is carried on in and around the markets, and these premises are visited daily.

Summary of other foodstuffs condemned.

Packages of wet fish.	102.
" dry fish.	2.
Meat.	4184 lbs.
Canned meat.	808.
Other canned or bottled foods.	2274.
Rabbits, game and fowl.	3530.
Fruit and vegetables.	2475 lbs.
Other foods.	1529 lbs.
" (packages).	949.
Articles of confectionery.	958.

FRIED FISH SHOPS.

There are 82 premises in the Borough used for the purpose of fish frying, all of which are kept under observation.

FOOD AND DRUGS (ADULTERATION) ACT, 1938.

239 samples obtained under the above Act were submitted to the Public Analyst for examination. The samples were as follows.

Milk 146, condensed milk 4, cheese 6, butter 12, margarine 8, lard 8, tea 10, coffee 10, jam 9, pepper 5, vinegar 4, meat and fish pastes 8, sausage 6, flavourings 3.

18 samples of milk were reported as below standard, the remainder were genuine.

Samples reported to be adulterated or below standard.

Of the 18 samples of milk certified to be below standard six were informal test samples. Six formal samples were certified to be below standard. Of the six 'appeal to cow' samples taken, four were certified to be genuine naturally deficient in fat and non-fatty solids.

In two cases legal proceedings were taken and fines totalling twelve pounds were inflicted.

BOROUGH ANALYST'S REPORT.

The Borough Analyst, Mr. S. Ernest Melling, F.I.C., reports as follows on the duties of his office during the twelve months ending 31st December, 1944.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

During the above period 239 samples of food &c. were examined, consisting of 146 milks, 12 butters, 10 each of tea and coffee, 8 each of margarine and lard, 7 each of jam and meat and/or fish paste, 6 each of sausage and pepper, 5 of vinegar, 4 each of condensed milk and marmalade, and 4 miscellaneous samples.

Eighteen samples, equivalent to 12.3% of the whole, were reported as either adulterated or below standard, all of which were milks, and these may be summarised as follows :-

Four contained added water in amounts varying from 15% to 28.2%.

Ten samples were deficient in fat to an extent varying from 3.3% to 26.6%.

Two samples were naturally deficient in non-fatty solids, one to a trifling amount and the other to the extent of 6.8%, when referred to the Sale of Milk Regulations 1939, and were classified as genuine, though of sub-normal quality.

Two samples were naturally deficient in both fat and non-fatty solids to the extent of 8.3% and 5.1%, and 12.6% and 2.2% respectively.

Freedom from preservatives and colouring matter was observed throughout. Taken as a whole, the supply has maintained a satisfactory quality.

Fertilisers & Feeding Stuffs Act.

During the year 16 samples of fertiliser and 7 samples of feeding stuff were submitted. The samples complied with the Statutory Statements in all cases, with the exception of a sample of cattle food, which contained 3.8% of albuminoids in excess of that stated in the Statutory Statement, after making due allowance, (Limits of Variation).

Water Supply.

49 samples were analysed during the year, 48 from the public supplies and one from Billinge Hospital.

The usual satisfactory degree of organic purity of the public water supply was well maintained, and the supply from Billinge Hospital, which was also submitted to bacteriological examination, was of wholesome and potable quality.

Rag Flock Act.

Three samples of rag flock were examined, and all complied with the official requirements.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Vaccination of children whose births were registered during the year 1943.

Births registered 1202, successful vaccinations 193, insusceptible of vaccination - nil, statutory declarations of conscientious objection 730, died un-vaccinated 60, postponement by medical certificate 5, removal to other districts (vaccination officer duly apprised) 19, removal to places unknown, or cannot be traced 102, number of these births remaining on 31st. January 1945 not entered in vaccination register, nor temporarily accounted for in the report book 93, total number of certificates and copies of certificates of successful vaccinations received during the year 1944 - 231, number of statutory declarations of conscientious objection received by vaccination officers irrespective of the dates of birth of children to which they relate during the year 1944 - 736.

CHILDREN IMMUNISED AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

	M. & C. W. clinic.	School clinic.	Private Doctors.	Total.
Number treated during the year 1944.	665.	202.	60.	927.
Totals since 1937 to end of 1944.	3,266.	7,514.	307.	11,087.

Percentage of the child population
treated at the end of 1944.

0 - 4 years incl:	5 - 14 years incl:
35 %.	58 %.

INOCULATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

Age at date of inoculation.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.
0 +	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 +	-	31	16	5	12	87	176	471	448
2 +	-	39	22	10	16	118	197	301	134
3 +	1	31	22	10	7	91	138	320	73
4 +	4	41	17	25	12	125	151	260	78
5 +	24	89	32	60	2	309	131	436	72
6 +	28	137	16	97	2	336	117	332	43
7 +	14	122	18	101	1	272	73	277	13
8 +	6	131	6	76	-	236	89	241	25
9 +	1	109	7	76	-	282	69	254	14
10 +	-	100	3	70	-	248	88	245	7
11 +	-	78	3	82	-	224	56	220	8
12 +	-	37	4	89	-	238	40	175	6
13 +	-	30	2	91	-	210	47	161	6
14 +	-	10	5	31	-	76	9	31	-
15 +	-	1	1	2	-	56	24	8	-
Totals.	78.	986.	174.	825.	52.	2908.	1405.	3732.	927.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION.

Bedding and clothing from houses in which infectious diseases have occurred are dealt with by a high pressure disinfecter, as also is similar material from houses infested with vermin. Prior to removal to Council houses, furniture from houses infested with vermin is treated in the Local Authority's furniture van by means of cyanide gas, by a firm of contractors who specialise in this work. In certain instances bedding which was unfit for further use was destroyed. Supplies of vernicide are issued along with the loan of suitable sprays for the treatment of infested houses.

Disinfectants are supplied free to the occupiers of houses where infectious diseases occur, and in other cases of exceptional circumstances.

TREATMENT OF CANCER.

The Corporation's arrangements with the Wigan Infirmary and the Manchester & District Radium Institute for the treatment of cases of cancer is still in operation. The Wigan Infirmary, for this purpose, is a sub-clinic of the Manchester centre.

Clinics are held twice a month, and during the year 1944 the attendances were as follows.

New cases..... 56.

Old cases..... 415.

HOSPITAL FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES, WHELLEY.

This Institution contains 76 beds. The Medical Officer of Health personally attends the patients. The majority of cases admitted are from within the Borough, but a number are sent in from the surrounding districts.

	Noti- fica- tions.	Removed to Whelley Hospital.		Died in Whelley Hospital.	
		Wigan.	Out-dist:	Wigan.	Out-dist:
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet fever	310.	71.	15.	1.	-
Enteric fever	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid fever	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria & Membr: croup	61.	61.	7.	2.	1.
Pneumonia	69.	1.	-	-	-
Influenzal pneumonia	5.	-	-	-	-
Chickenpox	109.	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	15.	2.	-	-	-
Ophthalmia neonatorum	2.	-	1.	-	-
Encephalitis lethargica	-	-	-	-	-
Pulmonary tuberculosis	81.	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, other forms	32.	-	-	-	-
Measles	130.	1.	-	-	-
Puerperal pyrexia	1.	-	-	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-spinal-meningitis	3.	3.	3.	1.	1.
Whooping cough	76.	-	-	-	-
Others	2.	10.	7.	-	-
	896.	149.	33.	4.	2.

Whelley Hospital.	Diphtheria.	Scarlet F.	Enteric F.	Others.	Total.
In-patients at 1-1-44.	14.	4.	-	-	18.
Admitted during 1944.	68.	86.	-	28.	182.
Discharged during 1944.	73.	78.	-	26.	177.
Died during 1944.	3.	1.	-	2.	6.
In-patients at 31-12-44.	6.	11.	-	-	17.

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year 1944.

Notifiable Disease.	Number of cases notified in various age groups.										Number of cases notified in each ward.													
	At all ages.	Under 1.	1 & under 3.	3 & under 5.	5 & under 10.	10 & under 15.	15 & under 25.	25 & under 45.	45 & under 65.	65 and over.	St. George.	Lindsay.	St. Catharine.	St. Patrick.	St. Thomas.	Poolstock.	Victoria.	St. Andrew.	Swinley.	All Saints.	West Pemb.	North Pemb.	Central Pemb.	South Pemb.
Smallpox	-	3	12	47	161	60	23	4	-	-	6	18	11	22	10	15	10	97	42	4	10	14	38	13
Scarlet fever	310.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria & Membr. croup	61.	2	3	7	21	11	12	5	11	-	4	5	2	5	1	1	2	20	7	1	1	3	12	5
Pneumonia	69.	10	10	7	10	4	6	10	1	-	2	-	-	1	2	1	1	11	1	-	2	1	24	13
Influenzal pneumonia	5.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chickenpox	109.	-	-	-	73	5	1	2	1	-	-	4	-	1	-	8	24	28	2	25	3	-	-	3
Erysipelas	15.	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia neonatorum	2.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis lethargica	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, pulmonary	81.	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
" other forms	32.	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	130.	5	15	32	71	6	12	5	10	2	2	4	2	10	3	1	1	13	1	5	2	7	19	5
Puerperal pyrexia	1.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Polioarthritis, acute	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-spinal-meningitis	3.	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping cough	76.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Polioencephalitis, acute	1.	9	33	21	13	1	-	-	-	-	2	3	2	6	1	1	4	16	9	-	6	5	12	6
Dysentery	1.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	896.	32	81	139	355	95	93	61	33	7.	20	43	37	56	30	35	51	271	104	16	27	39	119	48.

THE SCABIES ORDER, 1941.

Made by the Minister of Health, under Regulation 33A
of the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939.

Following the above, arrangements were made to treat Scabies in a vacant ward at Whelley Infectious Diseases Hospital.

Families affected were investigated, and all members with scabies were treated.

The application of Benzyl Benzoate was the treatment used, and the results were very satisfactory.

Six persons with septic sores complicating scabies were treated in hospital as in-patients for a total of 216 days.

Since the commencement of the scheme on 21st. January 1942, 1,816 cases were treated, and 4,962 attendances were made up to the end of 1944.

During the year 1944, 506 cases were treated and 893 attendances were made.

This scheme has meant a great amount of extra work, and the treatment of young children and females was supervised and carried out by a school nurse, assisted by the female A.R.P. staff up to the time of disbandment of the A.R.P. service. Members of the hospital male staff dealt with males.

Sanitary Inspectors visited the homes of persons affected and arranged the time of treatment.

LABORATORY WORK.

The following specimens were submitted for examination during 1944.

	Positive.	Negative.	Total.
Swabs for diphtheria	54.	499.	553.
Tidal tests for enteric	-	2.	2.
Faeces and urine for enteric	-	-	-
Cerebro-spinal fluid	4.	59.	63.
Wassermann tests for V.D. (V.D. clinic)	291.	1,397.	1,688.
" " " (M.&C.W.clinic)	3.	444.	447.
Kahn tests	11.	10.	21.
Tests for gonococci	1.	24.	25.
Milk (bacteria count)			155.
" (for B. coli.)			158.
" (phosphatase test)			78.
" (methylene blue test)			83.
" (T.B. inoculation test)			19.
Water (bacteriological)			54.
" (chemical)			49.
Food and Drug samples			239.
total examinations			5,634.

COMPENSATION CLAIMS AND MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS.

The Medical Officer of Health made 143 examinations of Corporation employees during the year 1944.

WELFARE OF THE BLIND.

In June 1933 Dr. Duthie, a Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon was appointed for the examination of persons under the Blind Persons Act, and during the year 1944 he examined 18 persons.

SOCIAL WELFARE.

The Director of Social Welfare has kindly supplied me with the following information.

Year ending.	Average number of families receiving relief.	Amount paid in relief.
31st. March, 1945.	580.	£42,783.
31st. March, 1944.	511.	£32,950.

TUBERCULOSIS.

DEATHS recorded during the year. Pulmonary 41. Death rate 0.52
Non-pulmonary 10. " " 0.13

Artificial Pneumothorax.

During 1944 Artificial Pneumothorax treatment was performed in nine new cases. 597 re-fills were carried out in these and other cases.

Hospital for treatment of Tuberculosis, Pemberton.

The following table shows the number of cases admitted to Pemberton Hospital during the year.

	Males.	Females.	Children.	Total.
Borough cases	17.	24.	1.	42.
County cases	3.	4.	-	7.
Totals	20.	28.	1.	49.

After-care.

During the year 137 persons received milk; of these 34 were new recommendations and 46 were removed from the list due to commencing work and other causes. The average number of persons in receipt of milk at any time was 78. Six persons received new clothing from the Committee, also two persons have benefitted by gifts of vouchers and clothing through the good services of a member of the Committee.

Treatment Allowance.

As from 3rd. January 1944 the amount paid out up to period week ending 31st. December 1944 was £1,581-14-11d. amongst 56 patients. Worked out on a yearly basis for all pulmonary cases on the register this amounts to £5-4-9d. per patient per year.

Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1930.

Summary of notifications during the period 1-1-44 to 31-12-44.

Number of Primary Notifications of new cases of T.B.												
Age periods.	0+	1+	5+	10+	15+	20+	25+	35+	45+	55+	65+	Total all ages.
Pulmonary. Males.	-	-	-	-	7	6	8	9	5	-	2	37.
" Females.	-	-	1	1	8	14	11	4	4	1	-	44.
Non-pulmonary. Males.	-	1	2	2	3	2	1	1	1	-	-	13.
" Females.	-	2	1	5	5	2	1	2	-	1	-	19.

Supplemental Return.

New cases of tuberculosis coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during this period, otherwise than by formal notification.

Age periods.	0+	1+	5+	10+	15+	20+	25+	35+	45+	55+	65+	Total all ages.
Pulmonary. Males.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	2.
" Females.	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	5.
Non-pulmonary. Males.	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.
" Females.	-	-	1	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	4.

The sources from which information was obtained as to the above cases is stated below.

Source of information.	Number of cases.	
	Pulmonary.	Non-pulmonary.
Death Returns. From local registrars.	3.	3.
Transferable deaths from Reg: General.	-	-
Posthumous Notifications.	-	-
Transfers from other areas (other than trans: deaths).	4.	3.
Other sources, if any.	-	-

Report on the work of the Dispensary during the year 1944.

Diagnosis.	Pulmonary.				Non-pulmonary.				Total.				Grand Total.
	Adults		Children		Adults		Children		Adults		Children		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
A. <u>New cases examined during the year (excluding contacts)</u>													
(a) Definitely Tuberculous.	34	33	-	-	5	9	4	9	39	42	4	9	94.
(b) Diagnosis not completed.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	7	-	-	12.
(c) Non-tuberculous.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	150	114	34	29	327.
B. <u>Contacts examined during the year</u>													
(a) Definitely Tuberculous.	1	4	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	4	1	1	7.
(b) Diagnosis not completed.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1.
(c) Non-tuberculous.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	16	21	23	64.
C. <u>Cases written off the Dispensary Register.</u>													
(a) Recovered.	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	2.
(b) Non-tuberculous (incl: any such cases previously diagnosed and entered on Disp: Register as tuberculous.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	163	135	58	54	410.
D. <u>No. of persons on Disp: Register on 31-12-44.</u>													
(a) Definitely Tuberculous.	151	143	6	2	83	103	56	43	234	246	62	45	587.
(b) Diagnosis not completed.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	7	1	-	13.

1. Number of cases on dispensary register on 1st. January 1944. 553.
2. Number of cases transferred from other areas, and cases returned after discharge during previous years (section C above). 6.
3. Number of cases transferred to other areas, cases not desiring further assistance under the Scheme, and cases lost to sight. 9.
4. Cases written off during the year as dead (all causes). 43.
5. Number of attendances at dispensary (including contacts). 4843.
6. Number of insured persons under domicilliary treatment on 31-12-44. 51.
7. Number of consultations with Medical Practitioners. (a) personal. 88.
(b) others. 487.
8. No. of visits by Tuberc. Officer to homes (inc: pers: consultations). 137.
9. No. of visits by Nurses or Health Visitors to homes for disp: purposes. 1514.
10. Number of (a) specimens of sputum &c. examined. 506.
(b) X-ray examinations made in connection with disp: work. 781.
11. No. of 'recovered' cases restored to disp: register, and included in A (a) and (b) above. -
12. Number of 'T.B. plus' cases on dispensary register on 31-12-44. 154.

RESULTS OF SUNLIGHT TREATMENT, 1944.

Tuberculosis Dispensary.

	Under treatment 1-1-44.	New cases	Discharged.			Ceased to attend.	Under treatment 31-12-44.
			Much improved	Improved	Stationary.		
T.B. Glands.	10.	7.	13.	-	-	2.	2.
Lupus.	1.	1.	-	-	-	-	2.
Bones and joints.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
T.B. Abdomen.	-	1.	1.	-	-	-	-
Totals	11.	9.	14.	-	-	2.	4.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

Venereal Diseases are treated at a special clinic at the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary. The figures below show the work done during 1944.

	Borough.		County.		Others.	
	1944.	1943.	1944.	1943.	1944.	1943.
(a) Number of persons from each area dealt with during the year at or in connection with the out-patient clinic, for the first time, and found to be suffering from :-						
Syphilis	45.	30.	52.	40.	1.	-
Soft Chancre.	-	-	-	2.	-	-
Gonorrhoea	79.	56.	53.	81.	1.	3.
Conditions other than venereal	84.	82.	103.	114.	-	1.
	208.	168.	208.	237.	2.	4.
(b) Total number of attendances of all patients residing in each area.	4687.	4227.	5539.	6809.	2.	36.

Figures for the past Five Years.

	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.
New cases (Borough, County & others)	248.	314.	321.	409.	418.
Total attendances at V.D. clinic	8650.	9966.	10959.	11072.	10228.
In-patient days	53.	22.	4.	24.	15.

In consequence of Ministry of Health circular No. 2834 arrangements were made for the V.D. Orderly (male), who is employed at the V.D. clinic, to undertake the duties of Almoner, as from the 1st. June 1944.

The following report shows the results of his work during the year.

Twelve males reported for examination, after interview with females concerned. Seventeen females reported after interview with males concerned.

Twelve females reported for examination under regulation 33B, form 1.

22 visits were made to contacts' homes.

19 persons interviewed at the V.D. clinic.

The following up of cases failing to attend, and sending letters to patients failing to attend for treatment.

39 returned after one letter, 22 returned after two letters, 9 were transferred to other clinics, 5 letters were returned (not known), and 30 did not reply. These cases were traced and,

7 returned for treatment, 9 were transferred to the forces, 2 were transferred to other towns, 2 died, 5 failed to report, and 5 remain to be followed up in January 1945.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Attendances at clinic :-

	1944.	1943.
Children - total attendances	9773.	10205.
" primary attendances	1210.	1218.
Expectant mothers - Central clinic (weekly).	1977.	2076.
" " " " (special)	139.	119.
" " Pemberton clinic.	806.	911.

Maternal Mortality :-

Deaths.	3.	4.
Rate.	2.04	2.80
Births.	1471.	1426.
Visits paid to expectant mothers by Health Visitors.	270.	136.

Dental Treatment.

The following table shows the dental work carried out during the year 1944 in connection with the Maternity and Child Welfare Department.

Babies treated.	Dressings &c.	Extractions.	Fillings.	Mothers treated	Extractions.	Fillings.	Sealings &c.	Dentures.
16.	7.	12.	8.	23.	32.	4.	8.	-

Children's Act.

On the 1st. January 1944 there were six 'nursed out' children on the register. On the 31st. December 1944 there were three on the register. The Health Visitors, who are also Infant Life Protection Visitors, paid 41 visits to premises where children are being nursed out. There were no complaints.

INFANT MORTALITY. The table for the year 1944 shows that more than 50% of the deaths under one year occurred in the first four weeks of life, 53 of the total of 99. More than one third were under one week old, 35 of the total of 99. Of the 53 deaths under one month old 20 were due to premature birth and 16 due to congenital malformations.

Ante-Natal Work.

	Central Clinic. Weekly.	Special	Pemberton. clinic.
Number of primary cases attending during year—	541.	1.	227.
Total number of attendances —	1977.	139.	806.
Cases referred to St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester	—	21.	—
Cases admitted to St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester	—	21.	—

Summary of visits paid by the Health Visitors during 1944.

No. of primary visits to births —	1523.
" visits to infants under one year —	7899.
" " " over one year but under two years —	5199.
" " " two years but under three years —	3729.
" " " three years but under four years —	2706.
" " " four years but under five years —	2538.
" " expectant mothers —	270.
" " cases of abortion —	36.
" " " infectious disease. —	70.
" " re deaths under one year —	63.
" " re still-births —	38.
" " midwives —	261.
" other visits —	1122.

School for Mothers.

151 classes were held during the year 1944, and 997 attendances were made by mothers.

Notifications of births received from Doctors, Midwives & Institutions.

Number of births notified —	1530.
" still-births notified —	41.
" medical aid forms received —	284.

Cases of Puerperal Pyrexia notified during 1944.

No. of cases notified.	Treated at				Result.
	Home.	Wigan Infirmary.	Billinge Hospital.	Private Nursing Homes.	
1.	1.	—	—	—	1 recovered.

Municipal Midwives Service.

The number of cases attended by the Municipal Midwives during the year 1944 was 879, and the total number of confinements by all midwives in the town was 1061. The service consists of a Supervisor and 13 Municipal Midwives. There are 10 midwives in private practice.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

During the year 1944 there were two notified cases. One was treated at home and the other at Whalley Hospital. The result of both cases was vision un-impaired.

Results of Sunlight Treatment (ex Maternity & Child Welfare Clinic).

	Under treatment 1-1-44.	New cases.	Discharged.		Coased to attend.	Under treat- ment 31-12-44.
			Cured.	Much improved.		
Malnutrition	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rickets. —	1.	—	—	1.	—	—
Debility —	1.	1.	1.	—	—	1.
Others —	—	8.	2.	2.	2.	2.
	2.	9.	3.	3.	2.	3.

Care of Illegitimate Children and Premature Infants.

Increased attention is now being paid to the care of illegitimate children and premature infants.

The arrangements made for the former are that Miss Wheat, who has now completed a short course of instruction in social service, will take over the visiting of all the illegitimates in the town, during their first year and longer in necessary cases. She is able to help the mother to settle down with the child, or if she must go out to work the Health Visitor will ensure that suitable provision is made for the infant. She is also able to assist the mother to obtain an affiliation order, and where necessary, give advice about legal adoption.

With regard to premature infants, our Health Visitor Miss Forshaw, upon receiving notification of the birth visits each one daily, showing the mother how to handle and tend the baby, and noting and reporting progress or otherwise. A special draught-proof cot complete with bedding has been provided for use in the homes where existing provision is inadequate. The experienced advice which the Health Visitor is able to give, and also the interest and care which she shows in the children's progress is being very much appreciated by the mothers.

By these measures it is hoped to ensure that the children in these two categories will receive adequate care and attention.

Head Lice.

As suggested in Ministry of Health circular No. 2831, when visiting homes and also at the clinics, Health Visitors have kept a keen look-out for verminous heads, and they have given suitable advice where necessary.

Child Minders.

At the end of 1944 there were 257 persons registered as 'child minders' under the Government scheme.

Upon application each case is investigated, and the homes of all approved cases are visited once a month.

Most of the minders are relatives of the children.

Home Helps.

One 'home help' is employed full-time, and the part-time services of several 'home helps' are available.

During 1944 the services of the home helps were provided in 38 cases.

The charges for the services of home helps are 30s/-d. per fortnight (20s/-d. for the first week and 10s/-d. for the second week) where the family income is below £400 per annum, and 40s/-d. per fortnight where the family income is over £400 per annum.

War-time Nurseries.

Two war-time Nurseries, one situated on the playing field of Beech Hill Council School and the other behind Ellesmere Road, Pemberton, commenced to receive children on the 24th. August and 21st. September 1942 respectively.

Some modifications recommended by the Medical Officer of Health were adopted, namely, enlargement of the Matrons' bed-sitting rooms by transferring the drying rooms to the nursery end, and the staff W.C.'s were erected at the staff end of the nurseries, near the staff bathroom instead of in the nursery section. Other improvements suggested and carried out were the provision of sand-pits and extension of the concrete surround, to enable the children to play outside if the grass is damp. The provision of coke stoves for heating the nurseries was criticised, but these were considered by the Ministry of Health to be suitable. However, during the night when there is poor ventilation owing to the black-out the staff complain of sore and dry throats, and often contract coughs, probably due to the dry atmosphere and some escape of gases from the stoves. A more satisfactory and safe supply of heat would be electric tubular heating. The electric tubular heating recommended in one of my previous reports has now been installed in the nursery bathrooms, staff bathrooms and corridors.

Each nursery is designed to accommodate 52 children aged six months to five years, seventeen of whom may be resident.

The staff at each nursery consists of a Matron, Deputy Matron, two Staff Nurses, six Assistants, one Teacher, one Cook and one Cleaner.

The work of organising, staffing and preparing for occupation was very considerable, and the staffs of both nurseries have worked very hard in maintaining a high standard of efficiency, with the result that the children have much improved in health and behaviour. Good feeding, kind treatment, cleanliness and care combine to make the children happy and contented, whilst in addition, the two to five-year olds benefit by the services of a teacher who keeps them occupied during certain hours, and gives them guidance according to their age.

Practically all the children attending the nurseries have been immunised against diphtheria.

The average attendances during the year 1944 were as follows :-

	<u>Beech Hill.</u>		<u>Pemberton.</u>	
	<u>Day</u>	<u>Night</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Night</u>
Children under two years of age.	13.	9.	8.	4.
" between 2 to 5 years.	25.	6.	23.	11.
Totals.	38.	15.	31.	15.

I N D E X.

Introductory letter by the Medical Officer of Health	1.
Analyst's Report	9.
Bacteriological Examinations	7, 9.
Births	2.
Blind. Welfare of	13.
Canal Boats Act	6.
Cancer. Treatment of	11.
Closet Accommodation	5.
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ANNUAL REPORT
on the
HEALTH
of the
COUNTY BOROUGH OF WIGAN
for the year
1 9 4 3.

HENRY WHITEHEAD, M.D., D.P.H. (Vict), M.B., B.S. (Lond).

Medical Officer of Health, Chief Tuberculosis Officer,
Superintendent School Medical Officer, Medical Supt.
of Corporation Hospitals &c.

Public Health Department,
Municipal Buildings,
Library Street,
W I G A N.

August, 1944.

To the Mayor, Alderman & Councillors,
of the Borough of Wigan.

Sir, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present you with my Annual Report on the health of the Borough, and on the work of the Health Department during the year 1943.

The Birth Rate is 18.32 against 18.38 during 1942.

The general Death Rate is 14.30, which rather exceeds last year's rate of 12.95. The Death Rate for the 126 Great Towns during 1943 was 14.20.

The Infant Mortality is 71 against 62 during the previous year.

The Maternal Mortality is 2.80, which is well below the average of 4.29 during the past five years.

The Death Rate from Tuberculosis, both pulmonary and non-pulmonary is 0.81 per thousand of the population, showing a very slight rise on the figure of 0.80 during the previous year.

The Municipal Midwifery Service continues to work very satisfactorily, the average number of cases attended by each midwife is 71, against 76 during the previous year. They are expected to deal with approximately 80 cases per year.

Diphtheria was less prevalent than last year. 113 cases were notified, compared with 150 during 1942. Many efforts have been made to encourage parents to consent to the inoculation of their children, and this has resulted in a very considerable increase in the number of children immunised. There are still many parents whose only excuse for refusal is that 'they don't believe in it'. During 1943 5,724 children were inoculated, and the grand total of children immunised since the commencement of the scheme in 1939 is now 10,068.

The two War-time Nurseries, one situated in Beech Hill and the other in Pemberton are continuing to operate very satisfactorily in accommodating children between the ages of six months and five years, whose mothers are engaged on war work. It is pleasing to note that the general standard of the children accommodated has improved in every way.

Under the Scabies Order of 1941, arrangements were made to treat this verminous condition at Whelley Infectious Diseases Hospital. During 1943 635 persons made 1,232 attendances for treatment. (See page 13).

It is again my privilege to record my thanks to all members of my Staff in the Health Department and in the Hospitals for their continued loyalty and excellent service. Again, in addition to their usual duties they have carried out a great amount of extra work in connection with the Emergency Casualty Service.

My thanks are also due to the Chairman of the Health Committee (Alderman T. Ramsden); the Chairman of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee (Alderman Mrs. Ashurst); for their continued co-operation, confidence and support. I thank, too, the members of the Committees under whom I serve, for their courtesy and consideration.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

HENRY WHITEHEAD.

VITAL STATISTICS, 1942 - 43.

		1942.	1943.
<u>BIRTHS.</u>			
Males	770		
Females	656	1,462	1,426
Birth Rate per 1,000 on Registrar-General's estimated pop'n.		18.38	18.32
Ditto for England and Wales		15.80	16.50
Ditto for 126 County Boroughs and Great Towns		17.30	18.60
Illegitimate Births number 41.	Rate per 1,000 of population.	0.81	0.52
	Percentage rate of live births.	4.44	2.87
<u>DEATHS.</u>			
Males	605		
Females	508	1,030	1,113
Corrected Death Rate, on Registrar-General's estimated pop'n.		12.95	14.30
Ditto in England and Wales		11.60	12.10
Ditto for 126 County Boroughs and Great Towns		13.30	14.20
Excess of registered births over deaths		432	313
Maternal Death Rate		6.15	2.80
Total Deaths from the seven principal Zymotic Diseases		22	17
Rate of Mortality from the seven principal Zymotic Diseases		.27	.22
Total Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under two years of age		6	5
Death Rate (per 1,000 births) from Diarrhoea and Enteritis		4.10	3.51
Infantile Death Rate (per 1,000 births)		62	71
ditto	for England and Wales...	49	49
ditto	for 126 County Boroughs and Great Towns	59	58
Deaths of infants under one day old		12	14
ditto	one year old (legitimate)	87	96
ditto	ditto (illegitimate)	4	5

BIRTHS. The number of births registered during 1943 is 1,426 (males 770 and females 656). The rate per 1,000 of the population being 18.32. The birth rate compared with 1942 is .06 lower. The illegitimate births number 41, being 2.87 per cent of the live births.

STILLBIRTHS. Numbers registered during the year 1943 :-

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	24.	29.	53.
Illegitimate	1.	2.	3.
	25.	31.	56.

MORTALITY RATE. Deaths during 1943 number 1,113 (males 605 and females 508), being an excess of 97 males over females. The recorded rate per 1,000 of the population is 14.30, in 1942 it was 12.95. The increase in the number of deaths as compared with 1942 was 83, being a rate of 1.35 per 1,000.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

		Total.	Male.	Female.	
<u>BIRTHS.</u>	Legitimate.	1,385	750	635	} Birth Rate per 1,000 of population 18.32
	Illegitimate.	41	20	21	
		1,426	770	656	

<u>DEATHS.</u>	1,113	605	508	Death Rate per 1,000 of pop'n.
				14.30

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, child-birth :- Sepsis -
Other causes 4.

Mortality of women in, or associated with, child-birth per 1,000 births (live & still):

Puerperal Sepsis	-
Other Puerperal causes	-
Total Puerperal Mortality	-
Non-puerperal causes	2.80
Total Maternal Mortality	2.80

INFANT MORTALITY. (i.e., death rate under one year of age per 1,000 births).

Total Births	1426.	Total Deaths	101.	Infant Mortality	71.
Legitimate Births	1385.	Deaths under one year	96.	Death Rate	69.
Illegitimate Births	41.	" " " "	5.	" "	122.

Of this total of 101, 14 died under one day, 18 under one week, and 15 under one month.

The three main causes of death were :- Premature Birth 23, Congenital Malformations 13, and Pneumonia 27.

INQUESTS AND UNCERTIFIED DEATHS.

53 Inquests were held in Wigan during 1943, as against 69 in 1942 and 85 in 1941. The following verdicts were recorded :-

<u>Natural Causes.</u>	2.
<u>Accidents.</u>	Burns 3, Scalds, 1, Colliery 7, Falls 5, Drownings 2, Falls downstairs 6, Street 7, Others 10.
<u>Suicides.</u>	Gas 1, Poison 1, Hanging 1.
<u>Other causes.</u>	7.
<u>Murder.</u>	nil.

No Uncertified Deaths were registered during 1943, as against 1 in 1942 and 1 in 1941.

THE ZYMOTIC RATE is .22 and made up as follows :-

Diphtheria	-	deaths 5; rate .06:	Diarrhoea	-	deaths 5; rate .06:
Whooping Cough	-	" 1; " .01:	Measles	-	" 6; " .09:

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS SINCE YEAR 1876.

Year.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Zymotic Death Rate.	Infant Mortality.
1876.	43.90	28.50	4.92	186.
1886.	38.70	22.10	3.10	174.
1896.	35.90	23.09	4.09	186.
1906.	32.60	17.61	2.61	160.
1916.	23.28	15.42	1.04	113.
1926.	20.03	13.13	.30	103.
1936.	17.23	12.78	.42	82.
1943.	18.32	14.30	.22	71.

Causes.	Sex	All Ages	0+	1+	5+	15+	45+	65+
Totals from all causes.	M	605	59	20	11	60	179	276
	F	508	42	22	15	78	110	241
1. Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fevers....	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2. Cerebro-Spinal Fever.	M	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3. Scarlet Fever	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4. Whooping Cough	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
5. Diphtheria	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	5	-	2	2	4	-	-
6. Tuberculosis(of respiratory system)	M	24	-	-	-	13	10	1
	F	25	-	-	2	16	7	-
7. Tuberculosis (other forms). ...	M	9	1	2	2	1	1	2
	F	5	-	2	2	1	-	-
8. Syphilitic Disease	M	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	3	-	-	-	1	2	-
9. Influenza	M	26	1	-	-	-	14	11
	F	25	2	-	-	7	9	7
10. Measles	M	4	1	3	-	-	-	-
	F	2	1	1	-	-	-	-
11. Acute Poliomyelitis&Polioencephalitis	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12. Acute Infectious Encephalitis... ..	M	2	-	-	-	2	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
13M.Cancer of Buccal Cavity & Oesophagus	M	11	-	-	-	-	2	9
13F.Cancer of Uterus	F	7	-	-	-	4	2	1
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	M	19	-	-	-	1	10	8
	F	11	-	-	-	-	4	7
15. Cancer of Breast	F	7	-	-	-	-	3	4
16. Cancer of all other sites	M	37	-	-	-	3	20	14
	F	32	-	-	-	6	15	11
17. Diabetes	M	2	-	-	-	-	2	-
	F	8	-	-	-	3	3	2
18. Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions ...	M	66	-	-	-	1	18	47
	F	66	-	-	-	2	15	49
19. Heart Disease	M	104	-	-	1	10	29	64
	F	95	-	-	1	10	16	68
20. Other Circulatory Diseases	M	8	-	-	-	-	1	7
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	3
21. Bronchitis	M	65	2	3	2	4	21	33
	F	47	-	2	-	3	7	35
22. Pneumonia	M	41	15	6	-	1	9	10
	F	21	11	6	1	2	1	-
23. Other Respiratory Diseases	M	8	-	-	-	2	5	1
	F	8	-	-	-	1	2	5
24. Ulceration of Stomach and Duodenum ...	M	5	-	-	-	1	3	1
	F	3	-	-	-	1	1	1
25. Diarrhoea (under two years of age) ...	M	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
	F	4	3	1	-	-	-	-
26. Appendicitis	M	4	-	-	2	-	2	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
27. Other Digestive Diseases	M	11	-	1	-	-	2	8
	F	17	1	1	-	4	6	5
28. Nephritis	M	18	-	-	-	5	6	7
	F	10	-	-	-	3	5	2
29. Puerperal and Post-Abortive Sepsis ...	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
30. Other Maternal Causes	F	4	-	-	-	4	-	-
31. Premature Birth	M	16	16	-	-	-	-	-
	F	8	8	-	-	-	-	-
32. Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury, Infantile Disease ...	M	23	19	-	1	2	-	1
	F	16	12	3	-	1	-	-
33. Suicide	M	3	-	-	-	1	1	1
	F	2	-	-	-	-	1	1
34. Road Traffic Accidents	M	5	-	-	-	-	5	-
	F	3	-	-	1	1	-	1
35. Other Violent Causes	M	19	-	2	1	11	2	3
	F	11	1	1	3	-	-	6
36. All Other Causes	M	72	3	3	1	2	15	48
	F	57	3	2	3	7	9	33

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

A constant water supply for domestic purposes is obtained from four different sources. All supplies are chlorinated prior to distribution. Samples from each source taken monthly for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis have consistently been reported as satisfactory. The samples are usually obtained from service taps in dwellings situated in many parts of the town.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The River Douglas and streams running into it are the natural means of draining the Borough.

The Douglas Catchment Board control the river. They have carried out many improvements and also cleanse the bed of the river when required, and deal with rat infestation.

DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE, SCAVENGING AND REFUSE DISPOSAL.

Practically the whole of the Borough is sewered and drained. House refuse is collected and disposed of by destructors and tipping. The streets are scavenged regularly.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Almost the whole of the closet accommodation is on the water carriage system. The number of closets on March 31st. 1944, was 26,657. In addition, there are 103 waste water closets, 51 pail closets and 39 privy middens. The pail closets and privy middens are in connection with un-fit houses or isolated farms with cottages adjoining. During the year four waste water closets were converted to closets with efficient flushing apparatus.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Mr. F. Martlew, Chief Sanitary Inspector, submits the following remarks.

The town is divided into five districts. A District Sanitary Inspector is responsible to the Chief Sanitary Inspector for the constant supervision of each district. In addition, Inspectors specialise in the control of factories, workshops, including bake-houses, shops and offices.

Houses and premises inspected and visited re nuisances and complaints	2538.
Re-visits to nuisances	8319.
Other visits made	1067.
Visits to premises (testing of drains)	77.
Nuisances discovered	3983.
Nuisances abated	3224.
Notices issued (preliminary)	1087.
" " (formal)	573.
Letters issued re nuisances	736.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

25 observations were made during the year. In three instances communications were addressed to the occupiers of business premises regarding nuisances caused by the emission of smoke and fumes. In one instance certain structural alterations were carried out which abated the nuisance. On account of the poor quality of fuel available and inexperienced labourers acting as stokers, it is almost impossible to prevent smoke nuisances occurring.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES AND HOUSES-LET-IN-LODGINGS.

These premises are visited regularly and were found to be kept in a satisfactory condition. 480 visits were made to the eight Common Lodging Houses in the Borough, having accommodation for 380 lodgers. 131 visits were made to the two houses-let-in-lodgings.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Offensive trades are carried on at seven premises. They consist of one fellmonger, one fat boiler, three gut scrapers, one gut scraper and fat boiler, one tripe boiler. 32 visits were made to these premises.

RAG FLOCK ACT.

Three samples of Rag Flock obtained from manufacturers of bedding and furniture were submitted to the Borough Analyst, and all conformed to the Rag Flock Regulations.

CANAL BOATS. (Public Health Act, 1936).

As far as can be ascertained the 29 Canal Boats registered in Wigan are still in use. 12 inspections were made during the year. No defects were discovered.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

There are 398 factories in the Borough, 239 of these have mechanical power, and 293 visits were made. 64 contraventions of the Act were discovered during the year, they were as follows :- lack of cleanliness 13, defective sanitary accommodation 30, unsuitable exits or escapes in case of fire 7, want of abstract 1, insufficient sanitary accommodation 2, other defects 11. All the foregoing contraventions under the Act were remedied informally.

SHOPS ACTS, 1912-1936.

Number of shops on register 1980. 538 observations were made. Contraventions discovered were as follows :- not exhibiting statutory notices within premises 4, insufficient sanitary accommodation 4, defective sanitary accommodation 4, insufficient ventilation 3, insufficient facilities for maintaining reasonable temperature 2, unclean condition of premises 8, other defects 10. 23 letters were addressed to occupiers.

PHARMACY & POISONS ACT, 1933.

49 premises are registered for the sale of poisons. During the year 53 visits were made to premises, and 14 letters concerning contraventions were addressed to occupiers.

PLACES OF ENTERTAINMENT.

There are 24 places of entertainment within the Borough, each one is inspected periodically and reports are made on their sanitary condition before the renewal of licence.

RATS & MICE(DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

Mr. E. Richardson devotes a portion of his time as administrative officer under the above Act. During the year 259 visits were made to 58 different premises, 47 of these were new infestations and 41 are now free from rodents. Efforts have been made to reduce the rat infestation in sewers, pre-baits and poison baits have been laid in 81 manholes with good results.

HOUSING.

The number of dwellings at the 1931 census was 18, 573. The number of families was 20,190, or 1,617 more than dwellings. The population at the 1931 census was 85,357.

Since January 1st. 1921, a total of 5164 houses have been erected, 2594 by private enterprise and 2570 by local authority. During the period 1931-1942 approximately 1570 dwellings have been demolished or ceased to be used for habitation. During this year 2463 dwelling houses were inspected for defects under the Public Health or Housing Acts, 2222 of these were recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925. A total of 10,470 inspections and re-inspections were made, 1960 of these houses were not reasonably fit for habitation, 1263 were rendered fit in consequence of informal action, and 568 were rendered fit after the service of Formal Notices.

OVERCROWDING.

Many evacuees and others have come into the town since hostilities commenced, with the result that at the time of writing this report practically every available dwelling is occupied, and many houses occupied by more than one family. It is impossible to give any reliable figures as regards overcrowding, and only a limited number of cases of over-crowding have been relieved during the year. To relieve this situation, a few houses on which Demolition Orders have been made or undertakings given that the houses would not be used as dwellings in future, were allowed on licence to be used as dwellings for limited periods.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY (Food & Drugs Act 1938).

The number of persons registered under the above enactments are as follows :-

DAIRYMEN. - premises within the Borough 137; premises outside the Borough 26; total 163. Wholesale dealers 12; producers 26.

Approximately 300 milch cows are kept within the Borough, and the cowsheds are kept in a satisfactory condition. Number of visits made to cowsheds 181, to dairies 212, and milkshops 90.

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

Number of licences issued for the sale of Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	99.
" " " " " " " " and production of Pasteurised Milk	4.			
" " " " " " " " Accredited Milk	...	...	...	6.
Number of persons licenced for the sale and production of Accredited Milk	3.			
Number of licences issued for the sale of Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	...	4.

During the year 227 samples of milk were taken for the purpose of testing the amount of foreign matter contained in the milk intended for sale within the Borough. These samples were obtained at dairies and farms. In eight cases letters were addressed to producers outside the Borough regarding the unsatisfactory condition of the milk.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK.

95 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination and/or the methylene blue reduction test. 16 were below a reasonable standard.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector and five District Inspectors are all qualified Meat Inspectors. Within the Borough there are 12 licenced slaughter houses. District Inspectors examine carcasses slaughtered within their own districts.

Owing to the Food Control only six of the above premises are being used for slaughtering.

Premises which come within the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, are frequently visited. A large proportion of condemned meat is sent to a fat melter for manufacturing purposes. The remainder is dealt with at the Frog Lane Cleansing Depot.

The firm receiving this condemned meat has signed an undertaking that it will only be used for manufacturing purposes, and they regularly return special schedules of quantities received. Shops, stores and vehicles are constantly inspected.

Registration of Purveyors of Meat and Premises.

The Wigan Corporation Act, 1933, section 36, contains powers for the compulsory registration of purveyors of meat and premises which are used or proposed to be used for the sale of meat. The number of premises registered at the end of 1943 was 98.

Private Slaughter Houses in use in the area.

	on 31st. Dec: 1920.	on 31st. Dec: 1943.
Registered	24.	-
Licenced	1.	12.
	25.	12.
Number of visits to slaughter-houses		2203.
" " " " Markets.		435.
" " " " butchers and other food shops		1925.
Number of certificates issued (condemned food)		953.

Carcases examined during the year 1943.

	Beasts.	Calves.	Pigs.	Sheep.	Total.
Carcases examined	6195.	2473.	5503.	22933.	37104.
Carcases totally condemned	147.	16.	21.	6.	190.
Percentage totally condemned	2.21	0.16	0.38	0.02	0.51

The following meat and offal from slaughter-houses was surrendered and destroyed, or sold for manufacturing purposes, during the year 1943 :-

Affected with Tuberculosis.	Whole carcase and all offal condemned.	Part of carcase condemned.	Offal Condemned.								
			Heads.	Lungs.	Livers.	Hearts.	Stomachs.	Spleens.	Kidneys.	Udders.	Mesenteries.
Beasts	112	85	573	1944	250	24	209	24	79	12	583
Calves	4	-	-	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	-
Pigs	14	57	376	296	273	225	107	82	15	2	74
Sheep	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Affected with other diseases etc.											
Beasts	35	1	5	213	1381	15	5	1	48	255	-
Calves	12	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Pigs	7	1	1	146	79	30	1	-	6	1	1
Sheep	6	-	1	8	98	2	-	-	-	-	-
	190	144	956	2609	2083	299	322	107	148	270	658
											295

Included under the above were 24 carcasses dealt with under the Tuberculosis order.

OTHER FOOD.

A large wholesale business in fish and other foodstuffs is carried on in and around the markets, and these premises are visited daily.

SUMMARY OF OTHER FOODSTUFFS CONDEMNED, 1943.

Number of packages of wet fish	...	121.
" " " " dry fish	...	26.
Meat	...	2410 lbs.
Canned Meat	...	1791.
Other canned or bottled food	...	9410.
Rabbits, game and fowl	...	1612.
Fruit and vegetables	...	130 lbs.
Cheese	...	222 lbs.
Other foods	...	1708 lbs.
" " (packages)	...	456.

FRIED FISH SHOPS.

There are 82 premises in the Borough used for the purpose of fish frying, all of which are kept under observation.

FOOD AND DRUGS (ADULTERATION) ACT, 1938.

233 samples obtained under the above Act were submitted to the Public Analyst for examination. Samples were as follows :-

Milk 130; Evaporated Milk 4; Cheese 11; Butter 12; Margarine 11; Lard 10; Tea 12; Coffee 11; Jam 12; Pepper 3; Vinegar 3; Canned vegetables 6; Meat & Fish Pastes 6; Lactic Sugar 1; Betox 1;

17 samples of milk were reported as below standard; the remainder were genuine.

Samples Reported to be Adulterated or Below Standard.

Of the 17 samples of milk certified to be below standard; 11 were informal test samples, 1 of these was certified to be genuine milk but naturally deficient in non-fatty solids;

6 Formal Samples certified to be below standard included 2 certified as genuine milk but slightly deficient in non-fatty solids.

In 2 cases legal proceedings were taken; fines of £20 were inflicted in each case. In 2 cases warning letters were sent to the producers.

BOROUGH ANALYST'S REPORT.

The Borough Analyst, Mr. S. Ernest Melling, F.I.C. reports as follows on the duties of his Office during the 12 months ending the 31st December, 1943 :-

Food and Drugs Act. 1938.

During the above period, 233 samples of food etc., were examined, consisting of 130 milks, 12 each of butter, jam and tea, 11 each of margarine, cheese and coffee, 10 lards, 6 each of meat and fish pastes, and of vegetables (tinned), and 3 each of malt vinegar, condensed milk, pepper and miscellaneous samples.

Seventeen samples, equivalent to 7.3 per cent of the whole, were reported as either adulterated or below standard, all of which were milks, and these may be summarised as follows :-

Seven contained extraneous water in amount varying from 2.9% to 7.2%.

Six were deficient in fat to the extent of from 4.7% to 29.0%.

Three were deficient in non-fatty solids from 2.9% to 7.0% being abnormal but otherwise genuine.

One was deficient in fat to the extent of 6.6%, and in non-fatty solids to the extent of 1.7% but was of genuine quality.

It is satisfactory to record that these results represent a very considerable improvement on the returns for the two previous years.

Preservatives and colouring agents were absent in all samples of Milk, and the groceries and vinegar, etc., were all sound commercial quality.

FERTILISERS AND FEEDING STUFFS ACT. 1926.

During the year 5 samples of Feeding Stuff and 5 Fertilisers were submitted. The samples of Feeding Stuff complied with the Statutory Statements as to composition and they were free from deleterious ingredients. No serious variation from the Statutory Statement was found in the sample of Fertilisers. A sample of "Superphosphate" contained rather more soluble Phosphate and slightly less Potash than as stated. A sample of "Excelnitro" was also slightly deficient in insoluble Phosphate, whilst the sample of Superior Top Dressing Manure contained a slight surplusage of the same constituent in each case, after making due allowance, (Limits of Variation).

WATER SUPPLY.

Forty-nine samples were analysed during the year, forty-eight from the Public Supplies and one from Billinge Hospital. The usual satisfactory degree of organic purity of the Public Water supply was well maintained and the sample from Billinge Hospital, which was also submitted to bacteriological examination, was of wholesome and potable quality.

RAG FLOCK ACT.

Three samples of Rag Flock were examined and all complied with the official requirements.

RODENT DISINFESTATION.

A suspected sample of Barium Carbonate used in the extermination of rats programme, was found to be of satisfactory commercial quality.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.
Vaccinations.

Vaccination of children whose births were registered during the year 1942.

Births registered 1252; successful vaccinations 186; insusceptible of vaccination 1; statutory declaration of conscientious objection 773; died unvaccinated 49; postponement by medical certificate 10; removal to other districts (vaccination officer duly apprised) 21; removal to places unknown, or cannot be traced 102; number of these births remaining on the 31st January 1944, not entered in vaccination register nor temporarily accounted for in the report book 110; Total number of certificates and copies of certificates of successful vaccinations received during the year 1943 224; number of statutory declarations of conscientious objections received by Vaccination Officers irrespective of the dates of birth of children to which they relate during the year 1943 - 715.

Children Immunised Against Diphtheria.

Children under
School Age .

School Children.

	At Clinic	By Private Doctor	Total.	At Clinic.	By Private Doctor	Total.	Grand Total.
During the Year 1943.	1297	55	1352	2372	-	2372	3724
Totals from commencement of Scheme in 1937 till end of 1943.	2601	155	2756	7312	-	7312	10068

INOCULATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

AGE AT DATE OF INOCULATION	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
1 +	-	31	16	5	12	87	176	471
2 +	-	39	22	10	16	118	197	301
3 +	1	31	22	10	7	91	138	320
4 +	4	41	17	25	12	125	151	260
5 +	24	89	32	60	2	309	131	436
6 +	28	137	16	97	2	336	117	332
7 +	14	122	18	101	1	272	73	277
8 +	6	131	6	76	-	236	89	241
9 +	1	109	7	76	-	282	69	254
10 +	-	100	3	70	-	248	88	245
11 +	-	78	3	82	-	224	56	220
12 +	-	37	4	89	-	238	40	175
13 +	-	30	2	91	-	210	47	161
14 +	-	10	5	31	-	76	9	31
15 +	-	1	1	2	-	56	24	8
TOTAL	78	986	174	825	52	2908	1405	3732

Disinfection and Disinfestation.

Furniture and clothing from houses in which Infectious Diseases have occurred are dealt with by a high pressure disinfector as also is similar material from houses infested with vermin. Prior to removal to Council houses furniture from houses infested with vermin is treated in the Local Authority's furniture van with cyanide gas by a firm of contractors who specialise in this work. In addition, blankets bedding which was unfit for further use was destroyed. Supplies of disinfectants are issued along with the loan of suitable sprays for the treatment of infested houses.

Disinfectants are provided free to the occupiers of houses where infectious diseases occur and in other cases of exceptional circumstances.

Hospital for Acute Infectious Cases, Whelley.

This Institution contains 76 beds. The Medical Officer of Health personally attends the patients. The majority of cases admitted are from the Borough of Wigan. A number are sent in from the surrounding districts.

	Notif- ica- tions.	Removed to Whelley Hospital.		Died in Whelley Hospital.	
		Patients		Patients	
		Wigan.	Out-dist.	Wigan.	Out-dist.
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	175	29	22	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria & Mem. Group	113	113	23	6	3
Pneumonia	101	3	-	1	-
Influenzal Pneumonia	10	-	-	-	-
Chickenpox	80	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	30	2	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	4	2	-	-	-
Endophthalmitis Icthergia	-	-	-	-	-
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	95	-	-	-	-
Other forms of Tuberculosis	56	1	-	-	-
Measles	1061	1	1	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal-Meningitis	8	8	3	3	-
Whooping Cough	58	-	-	-	-
Others	-	6	-	1	-
	1793	165	49	11	3

Whelley Hospital.	Diphtheria.	Scarlet F.	Enteric F.	Others.	Total.
In-patients, 1.1.43.	42	3	-	1	46
Admitted in 1943.	136	51	-	27	214
Discharged in 1943.	155	50	-	23	228
Died in 1943.	9	-	-	5	14
In-patients, 1.1.44.	14	4	-	-	18

Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during the year 1943.
Name of District - Wigan County Borough.

Notifiable Disease	Number of Cases notified. at Ages - Years.													Total cases notified in each Locality (e.g. Parish or Ward) of the districts														
	At All Ages.	Under 1.	1 & under 2.	2 & under 3.	3 & under 4.	4 & under 5.	5 & under 10.	10 & under 15.	15 & under 20.	20 & under 35.	35 & under 45.	45 & under 65.	65 and over.	St. Georges.	Lindsay.	St. Cath.	St. Patrick.	St. Thomas.	Poolstock.	Victoria.	St. Andrew.	Swinley.	All Saints.	West Pemb.	North Pemb.	Central Pemb.	South Pemb.	
Smallpox...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever...	175	1	2	13	22	23	89	19	4	2	-	-	-	1	11	10	9	5	8	6	39	14	1	12	19	32	8	
Enteric Fever...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Paratyphoid Fever...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Diphtheria & Membr. Group...	113	-	2	4	6	7	43	18	11	16	3	3	-	-	8	7	14	6	7	3	27	5	1	3	13	-	-	
Pneumonia...	101	9	6	12	3	4	15	5	4	11	12	12	8	5	5	4	4	1	7	3	12	11	1	3	9	26	12	
Influenzal Pneumonia...	10	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	3	-	1	3	4	2	3	11	8	1	2	4	10	5	1	2	1	1	
Chickenpox...	80	3	2	5	2	10	34	21	1	5	-	10	7	2	2	2	11	2	-	1	23	4	4	1	11	5	2	
Erysipelas...	30	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	2	3	3	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum...	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	
Encephalitis Lethargica...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Pulmonary Tuberculosis...	95	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	38	12	19	-	1	7	7	9	3	4	12	21	4	1	3	7	11	5	
Other forms of Tuberculosis	56	2	3	1	4	3	8	7	13	3	3	8	-	1	2	3	3	1	4	5	12	1	1	2	6	9	7	
Measles...	1061	62	121	135	184	166	378	11	-	4	-	-	-	29	60	50	64	24	22	43	213	87	15	81	127	192	44	
Puerperal Pyrexia...	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	
Acute Poliomyelitis...	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	3	-	
Cerebro-Spinal-Meningitis...	8	-	1	-	1	-	15	2	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	
Whooping Cough...	58	2	7	8	13	11	15	2	-	-	-	-	-	4	5	1	6	-	2	2	17	7	1	9	2	1	1	
TOTALS.	1793	83	144	178	235	224	588	89	50	85	35	54	28	48	103	87	122	51	48	82	379	146	26	115	188	304	84	

THE SCABIES ORDER, 1941.
Made by the Minister of Health under Regulation 33A of the
Defence (General) Regulations 1939.

Following the above, arrangements were made to treat Scabies in a vacant ward at Whalley Infectious Disease Hospital.

Families affected were investigated and all members with Scabies were treated.

Application of Benzyl Benzoate was the treatment used and the results were very satisfactory.

Six persons with septic sores complicating scabies were treated in Hospital as in-patients for a total of 280 days.

Since the commencement of the Scheme on 21st January 1942, 1310 cases were treated and 4069 attendances were made up to the end of 1943. During the year 1943, 635 cases were treated and 1232 attendances were made.

This Scheme has meant a great amount of extra work, and a school nurse supervised and carried out the treatment of young children and females, assisted by female A.R.P. Staff, while members of the male Staff and A.R.P. Staff dealt with the males. One of the sanitary inspectors visited the homes and arranged the time of treatment.

Laboratory Work.

The following specimens were submitted for examination during 1943 :-

	Positive.	Negative.	Total.
Swabs for Diphtheria...	167	965	1132
Widal Tests for Enteric...	-	-	-
Faeces and urine for Enteric...	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fluid...	6	47	53
Wassermann Tests for V.D....	287	1233	1520
Thick's Test...	3	10	13
Tests for gonorrhoea...	2	6	8
Milk (Bacterial Count)...			89
Milk (for E.Coli)...			95
Milk (Phosphatase Test)...			44
Milk (for Methylene Blue Test)...			12
Milk (for T.B. Inoculation Test)...			19
Water (Bacteriological)...			49
Water (Chemical)...			49
Food & Drugs Samples...			233
Total Examinations ...			3316

Compensation Claims and Medical Examinations.

The Medical Officer of Health examined 116 Corporation Employees during the year 1943.

Welfare of the Blind.

In June 1933 Dr. Duthie, a Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, was appointed for the examination of persons under the Blind Persons Act, and during the year 1943 he examined 24 persons.

Public Assistance.

The Clerk to the Public Assistance Committee has kindly supplied me with the following information :-

Year ending.	Average No. of families receiving relief.	Amount paid in relief.
31st March 1944.	511	£32,950
31st March 1943.	514	£30,404

TUBERCULOSIS.
Artificial Pneumothorax.

During 1943 Artificial Pneumothorax treatment was performed in 6 new cases. 634 refills were carried out in these and other cases.

Hospital for Treatment of Tuberculosis, Pemberton.

The following table shows the number of cases admitted to Pemberton Hospital during the year :-

	Males.	Females.	Children.	Total.
Borough Cases.	22	26	6	54
County Cases.	1	-	-	1
TOTALS.	23	26	6	55

After-Care.

During the year 1943, 122 persons received free milk from the After Care Committee. Of these 27 were new recommendations and 26 were removed from the list, due to commencing work and other causes. The average number of persons in receipt of milk was 91. 11 persons received new clothing from the Committee. Also, 3 persons have benefitted by gifts of vouchers and clothing through the good services of a member of the Committee.

Treatment Allowances.

As from August 9th 1943, the amount paid out up to period week ending 2nd. January 1944, was £512-16-3d. amongst 32 patients. Worked out on a yearly basis for all pulmonary cases on the register this amounts to £4-7-0d. per patient per year.

Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1930.

Summary of Notifications during the period from the 1st January, 1943 to the 31st December, 1943.

Number of Primary Notifications of New Cases of T.B.												
Age Periods.	0-	1-	5-	10-	15-	20-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	Total (all ages)
Pulmonary Males.	-	-	1	2	7	6	6	7	11	4	3	47
" Females.	-	-	1	-	6	10	17	4	3	5	1	47
Non-Pulmonary Males.	2	5	2	3	2	-	-	1	2	2	1	20
" " Females.	-	5	6	4	10	2	1	2	2	1	1	34

Supplemental Return.

New cases of Tuberculosis coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the above mentioned period, otherwise than by Formal Notification.

Age Periods.	0-	1-	5-	10-	15-	20-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	Total (all ages)
Pulmonary Males.	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	3
" Females.	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	-	1	-	5
Non-Pulmonary Males.	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	5
" " Females.	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	4

The source or sources from which information as to the above mentioned cases was obtained is stated below :-

Source of Information.	No. of Cases.	
	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
Death Returns - from Local Registrars	2	5
Transferable deaths from Registrar General... ..	1	-
Posthumous Notifications.	1	2
Transfers from other Areas (other than transferable Deaths.	4	2
Other sources, if any	-	-

Return Showing the Work of the Dispensary during the year 1943.

Diagnosis	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total		Grand Total.
	Adults.	Children	Adults.	Children	Adults.	Children	
	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	
A. New cases examined during the year (excluding contacts) ...							
(a) Definitely Tuberculous ...	32 44	3 1	4 11	9 9	36 55	12 10	105
(b) Diagnosis not completed... ..	- -	- -	- -	- -	7 4	1 -	12
(c) Non-Tuberculous..	- -	- -	- -	- -	170 123	22 37	352
B. Contacts examined during the year.. ...							
(a) Definitely Tuberculous. ...	2 1	1 -	- 1	- -	2 2	1 -	5
(b) Diagnosis not completed... ..	1 -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	- -	1
(c) Non-Tuberculous..	- -	- -	- -	- -	10 14	20 18	62
C. Cases written off the Dispensary Register							
(a) Recovered.	- 2	- -	- -	1 -	- 2	1 -	3
(b) Non-Tuberculous (including any such cases previously diagnosed & entered on the Dispensary Register)	- 2	- -	- -	1 -	1 2	1 -	3
(c) Tuberculous.	- -	- -	- -	- -	187 143	46 59	435
D. No. of persons on Dispensary Register on Dec. 31st.							
(a) Definitely Tuberculous. ...	136 138	6 3	65 91	67 47	201 219	73 50	553
(b) Diagnosis not completed... ..	- -	- -	- -	- -	8 4	1 -	13
1. Number of Cases on Dispensary Register on January 1st 1943							535
2. Number of Cases transferred from other areas and cases returned after discharge under Head 3 in previous years							2
3. Number of cases transferred to other areas, cases not desiring further assistance under the scheme, and cases lost sight of							37
4. Cases written off during the year as Dead (all causes)							41
5. Number of attendances at the Dispensary (including contacts)..							4143
6. Number of Insured Persons under Domiciliary Treatment on 31st Dec.							54
7. Number of consultations with Medical Practitioners:- (a) Personal.							77
(b) Others... ..							519
8. Number of visits by Tuberculosis Officer to homes (including personal consultation.							128
9. Number of visits by Nurses or Health Visitors to homes for Dispensary purposes..							2481
10. Number of (a) Specimens of sputum etc., examined..							498
(b) X-Ray examinations made in connection with Dispensary Work..							710
11. Number of "Recovered" cases restored to Dispensary Register, and included in A (a), and A (b) above							-
12. Number of "T.B. Plus" cases on Dispensary Register on December 31st							141

Results of Sunlight Treatment 1943.
Tuberculosis Dispensary.

	Under Treatment	New Cases	Discharged		Ceased to Attend	Under Treatment
	1.1.43.		Much Improved	Improved Stationary		31.12.43
T.B. Glands	7	13	6	1	3	10
Lupus... ..	1	1	-	-	1	1
Bones and Joints...	-	-	-	-	-	-
T.B. Abdomen... ..	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals ...	8	14	6	1	4	11

VENEREAL DISEASES.

Venereal Diseases are treated at a Special Clinic at the Wigan Royal Albert Edward Infirmary. The figures below show the work done in 1943 :-

	Borough 1942.1943.		County 1942.1943.		Others 1942.1943.	
(a) Number of persons from each area dealt with during the year at or in connection with the Out-Patients Clinic for the first time and found to be suffering from :-						
Syphilis	24	30	33	40	1	-
Soft Chancre.	-	-	-	2	-	-
Gonorrhoea	49	56	63	81	-	3
Conditions other than Venereal	58	82	92	114	1	1
	131	168	188	237	2	4
(b) Total number of Attendances of all patients residing in each area	4381	4227	6562	6809	7	36

Figures for the Past Five Years.

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
New Cases	265	248	314	321	409
Total Attendances at V.D. Clinic....	9781	8650	9966	10959	11072
In-patients....	124	53	22	4	24

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Attendances at Clinic :-	1942	1943
Babies	9112	10205
Primary Visits of Babies..	1121	1218
Expectant Mothers Weekly Clinic... ..Central..	1984	2076
Special Clinic...	120	119
Pemberton Clinic ..	714	911

Maternal Mortality :-

Deaths	9	4
Rate	6.15	2.80
Births	1462	1426
Visits paid to Expectant Mothers by Health Visitors...	217	136

Dental Treatment.

The following tables show the Dental work carried out during the year 1943 in connection with the Maternity and Child Welfare Department :-

Babies Treated	Dressing etc	Extrac-tions.	Fillings	Mothers Treated	Extrac-tions.	Fillings	Sealing etc.	Dentures
19	14	14	4	31	29	11	19	-

Children's Act.

On the 1st. January 1943, there were four nursed out children on the register. On the 31st. December, 1943, there were six on the register. The Health Visitors who are also Infant Life Protection Visitors paid 60 visits to premises where children are being nursed out. There were no complaints.

Ante-Natal Work.

	Wigan Centre		Pemberton Clinic
	Weekly Clinic	Special Clinic	
Number of primary cases attending Clinic during the year	550	1	256
Total number of attendances	2076	119	911
Cases referred to St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester.	-	11	-
Cases admitted to St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester.	-	10	-

The table of infant mortality for 1943 shows that approximately 50% of the deaths under one year occurred in the first four weeks of life - 47 of the total 99. Nearly one third were under one week old 32 of the total 99. Of the 47 deaths under one month old 20 were due to premature birth and 10 due to congenital malformation.

Summary of the Visits paid by the Health Visitors during 1943.

No. of primary visits to births	1464
" " visits to infants under one year	6467
" " " " " over one year and under two years.	4446
" " " " " two and under three years	3549
" " " " " three and under four years... ..	2798
" " " " " four and under five years	2091
No. of visits to expectant mothers	136
" " " " cases of abortion	34
" " " " Infectious Disease... ..	619
" " " re deaths under one year	72
" " " re still-births.	41
" " " to midwives.	275
" " other visits	762

School for Mothers.

95 classes were held during the year 1943, and 590 attendances were made by mothers.

The following are particulars of Notifications of births received from Doctors, Midwives and Institutions :-

No. of births notified	1449
No. of still-births notified..	56
No. of Medical Aid Forms received.	275

Cases of Puerperal Pyrexia notified in 1943.

No. of Cases Notified.	Treated at				Result.
	Home.	Wigan Infirmary.	Billinge Infirmary.	Private Nursing Home.	
2	1	-	-	1	2 recovered

Municipal Midwives Service.

The number of cases attended by the Municipal Midwives during the year 1943, was 854; and the total number of confinements by all Midwives in the Town was 1010. The Service consists of a Supervisor and 12 Municipal Midwives. There are 6 Midwives in Private Practice.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

During the year 1943 there were four notified cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum. 2 cases were treated at home and 2 at Whelley Hospital. The result in all cases was vision unimpaired.

Results of Sunlight Treatment, (Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics).

	Under treatment	New	Discharged		Ceased	Under treat-
	1st Jan, 1943.	Cases.	Cured,	Much Improved	to attend	ment. 31.12.43
Malnutrition.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rickets.	1	4	-	1	3	1
Debility.	3	2	3	-	1	1
Others.	2	3	2	1	2	-
	6	9	5	2	6	2

Head Lice.

As suggested in Ministry of Health Circular 2831, Health Visitors when visiting homes and also at the Clinics have kept a keen look out for verminous heads and they give suitable advice where necessary.

Child Minders.

At the end of 1943 there were 204 persons registered as Child Minders under the Government Scheme.

Home Helps.

The Corporation employ one Home Help whole-time.

WAR-TIME NURSERIES.

Two War-time Nurseries, one situated on the playing field of Beech Hill Council School and the other behind Ellesmere Road, Pemberton, commenced to receive children on the 24th August, and the 21st September, 1942, respectively.

Some modifications were recommended by the Medical Officer of Health and adopted, namely enlargement of the Matrons' bed sitting rooms by transferring the drying rooms to the Nursery end, and the Staff W.C's were erected at the Staff end of the Nurseries near the staff bathroom, instead of in the Nursery section.

Other improvements suggested and carried out were the provision of sandpits and extension of the concrete surround to enable the children to play outside if the grass was damp.

The provision of coke stoves for heating the Nurseries was criticised, but these were considered suitable by the Ministry of Health. However during the night when there is poor ventilation owing to black-out, the Staff complain of sore and dry throats and often get coughs, probably due to the dry atmosphere and some escape of gases from the stoves. A more satisfactory and safe supply of heat would be electric tubular heating.

The electric tubular heating recommended in my previous report has now been installed in the Nursery bathrooms, staff bathrooms and corridors.

Each Nursery is designed to accommodate 52 children aged 6 months to 5 years, 17 of whom may be resident.

The Staff consists of a Matron, Deputy Matron, two Staff Nurses, six Assistants, a teacher, cook and cleaner.

The work of organising, staffing and preparing for occupation was very considerable, and the staff of both Nurseries have worked very hard in maintaining a high standard of efficiency, with a result that the children have much improved in health and behaviour. Good feeding, kind treatment, cleanliness and care combine to make the children happy and contented, whilst in addition the 2 to 5 year olds benefit by the services of a teacher who keeps them occupied during certain hours and gives them guidance according to their age.

Practically all the children attending the Nurseries have been immunised against Diphtheria.

The following figures showing the average attendances at the Nurseries during the first 6 months of 1943, as compared with those of the latter part of the year, show that greater advantage is being taken of this service :-

	Beech Hill.		Pemberton.	
	Day.	Night.	Day.	Night.
Daily average number of children accommodated during January to June...	18	9	28	14
Daily average number of children accommodated during July to December...	31	15	31	16

Gifts of toys were sent by Lady Openshaw, the Area Organiser of War-time Nurseries and also from the Womens Voluntary Service Organisation per Mrs. Bennett, and were very much appreciated.

Members of the A.R.P. Staff at Beech Hill First Aid Post made wooden toys from material supplied.

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